

Message Text

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INFO USNMR SHAPE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 5 USNATO 1626

SECDEF FOR ODDR&E, OASD(ISA);
SHAPE FOR BG SCHWEITZER;
HQ DA FOR DAMA-PPI;
DARCOM FOR DRCIRD;
REDSTONE FOR PROJ MGR FOR PATRIOT AND PROJ MGR FOR HAWK

EO11652 GDS
TAGS OCON NATO MILI
SUBJECT FUTURE SAM SYSTEMS

REF DRAFT DS/ASG(77)115, UNDATED.

1. THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES TEXT OF REFERENCE WHICH WAS DISTRIB-
UTED INFORMALLY TO NADREPS OF FRANCE, FRG, US AND THE UK ON
22 MARCH 1977, BY MR. MUELLER, DIRECTOR ARMAMENTS AND DEFENCE
RESEARCH, DEFENCE SUPPORT DIVISION, INTERNATIONAL STAFF (IS).
WHEN FINALIZED THE REFERENCE WILL SERVE AS THE CHAIRMAN'S
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INTRODUCTORY MEMORANDUM FOR DISCUSSION OF FUTURE SAM SYSTEMS
AT THE APRIL 1977 CNAD. ADDITIONALLY, MUELLER INDICATED THE
REFERENCE MAY BE RAISED DURING THE FOUR POWER MEETING
SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 28, 1977. WE ALSO EXPECT THE
REFERENCE WILL BE FORMALLY DISTRIBUTED TO NADREPS IN
THE NEAR FUTURE FOR NATIONAL COMMENTS.

2. TEXT OF REF FOLLOWS. BEGIN TEXT:

DRAFT DS/ASG(77)115

CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS FUTUR SAM SYSTEMS
MEMORANDUM BY THE CHAIRMAN

IT HAS LONG BEEN RECOGNISED THAT AIR DEFENCE IS LIKELY TO BE A MAJOR FACTOR IN ANY CONFLICT WITH THE WARSAW PACT, ITS EFFECTIVENESS HAVING A DIRECT IMPACT ON THE OUTCOME OF LAND AND SEA BATTLES. WITH THE FORMAL INTEGRATION OF AIR DEFENCE IN ALLIED COMMAND EUROPE IN 1960, THE ALLIANCE RECOGNISED ITS PECULIAR SITUATION AND, WITH CERTAIN LIMITATIONS, GAVE SACEUR OPERATIONAL COMMAND AND CONTROL OVER THE ASSIGNED AIR DEFENCE ASSETS IN BOTH PEACE AND WAR. THUS, AIR DEFENCE DEMANDS THE SPECIAL ATTENTION OF THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES, PARTICULARLY SACEUR.

2. MORE RECENT ESTIMATES OF THE INCREASING POTENTIAL OF THE SOVIETS TO MOUNT AIR ATTACKS THROUGHOUT THE ALTITUDE REGIME OVER THE GREATER PART OF NATO EUROPE HAS CAUSED THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO LOOK CLOSELY AT THEIR PROJECTED AIR DEFENCE POTENTIAL. OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS, A NUMBER OF DECISIONS HAVING SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS ARE REQUIRED ABOUT THE ACQUISITION OF MAJOR AIR DEFENCE EQUIPMENTS, AND YET THERE SEEMS TO BE A LACK OF CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN THE NATIONS IN REGARD TO PLANNING WHICH COULD FURTHER DEGRADE STANDARDISATION AND INTEROPERABILITY. IN CONSEQUENCE, THE MILITARY COMMITTEE HAS RECOGNISED THAT AIR DEFENCE IS A MAJOR PROBLEM AREA AND THAT THERE IS A NEED TO ACHIEVE MORE CO-ORDINATED AIR DEFENCE PLANNING WITHIN THE ALLIANCE.

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3. AS A RESULT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE IS NOW CONSIDERING A COMPREHENSIVE PAPER WHICH, IF APPROVED BY THE CHIEFS-OF STAFF IN MAY, WILL REPRESENT TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL THOSE DEFICIENCIES OF THE EXISTING SYSTEM WHICH SEVERELY REDUCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF NATO AIR DEFENCES. THE PURPOSE OF THE MILITARY REPRESENTATION WILL BE TO INDICATE THE INADEQUACIES OF THE PRESENT MACHINERY TO PROVIDE THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT AT THE RIGHT TIME WITH SUFFICIENT REGARD TO THE ISSUES OF STANDARDISATION AND INTEROPERABILITY, AND TO SUGGEST A RESHAPING OF THE PROCESS TO ACHIEVE A CO-ORDINATED LONG TERM APPROACH TO AIR DEFENCE PLANNING ON AN ALLIANCE-WIDE BASIS. SUCH AN APPROACH IS ESSENTIAL IF THE QUALITY AND CAPABILITY OF THE FUTURE AIR DEFENCE SYSTEM IS TO BE COMMENSURATE WITH THE LEVEL OF INVESTMENT IN THIS COMPLEX MADE BY NATIONS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 5 USNATO 1626

SECDEF FOR ODDR&E, OASD(ISA);
SHAPE FOR BG SCHWEITZER;
HQ DA FOR DAMA-PPI;
DARCOM FOR DRCIRD;
REDSTONE FOR PROJ MGR FOR PATRIOT AND PROJ MGR FOR HAWK

4. EXISTING PLANNING PROCEDURES WITHIN THE ALLIANCE TEND TO CONCENTRATE ON THE NEAR TERM AND DO NOT REALLY AFFORD THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A COLLECTIVE DIALOGUE BETWEEN SENIOR NATO MILITARY AND NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES. WHAT MAY BE REQUIRED IS AN AIR DEFENCE AUTHORITY, COMPRISING NATIONAL AND NATO MILITARY AUTHRRITIES AT A SUITABLY HIGH LEVEL, TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OVERALL DIRECTION OF AIR DEFENCE PLANNING WITHIN THE ALLIANCE. SUCH AN AUTHORITY MIGHT REQUIRE A SMALL PERMANENT STAFF OF AIR DEFENCE EXPERTS TO DEVELOP AN AIR DEFENCE PLANNING CONCEPT. A STRUCTURE OF THIS FORM MIGHT PROVIDE ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS AT AN EARLY STAGE WITH A MUCH BETTER OPPORTUNITY TO UNDERSTAND THE CONFIDENTIAL

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REQUIREMENTS AND CONCEPTS OF THE NATO COMMANDERS, AND IN TURN WOULD ENABLE TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC CONSTRAINTS TO BE ADEQUATELY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. IN FACT SOME FORMAL PLANNING ACTIVITY SEEMS MANDATORY IF THE ALLIANCE IS TO AVOID A REPETITION OF THE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED DURING THE AEW PROJECT, AND AFFORD A CRDIBLE AIR DEFENCE CAPABILITY INTO THE NINETIES, BUT THE ACTIVE SUPPORT OF THE NATIONS IS OBVIOUSLY ESSENTIAL TO ITS SUCCESS. HOWEVER, THE SUGGESTION OF AN AIR DEFENCE AUTHORITY IS ESSENTIALLY DIRECTED TOWARDS THE NECESSITY FOR CONTINUALLY EXAMINING AIR DEFENCE NEEDS IN THE LONGER TERM, WHEREAS THERE NOW EXISTS A REQUIREMENT FOR A DECISION IN RELATION TO FUTURE SAM.

5. THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT FOR THE PROPOSITION THAT, FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, SAMS MUST FORM AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE AIR DEFENCE WEAPONS MIX IF THE WARSAW PACT AIR THREAT IS TO BE COUNTERED. UNLESS PRESENT PLANS ARE SIGNIFICANTLY MODIFIED THEN BETWEEN THE MID-EIGHTIES AND EARLY NINETIES ALL THE EXISTING 'MEDIUM' SAM SYSTEMS - BLOODHOUND, HAWK, NIKE, AND THUNDERBIRD -

ARE MOST LIKELY TO BE WITHDRAWN SINCE THEY WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY UNECONOMIC AND DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN DUE, IN THE MAIN, TO A LACK OF SUITABLE SPARE PARTS. APART FROM THE UNITED STATES, NO NATION HAS YET MADE A FIRM DECISION ABOUT REPLACEMENTS FOR THESE SYSTEMS WHICH, BETWEEN THEM, PROVIDE THE BACKBONE OF THE AIR DEFENCE COMPLEX IN EUROPE.

6. THE TRI-SERVICE TROOP ON AIR DEFENCE (AC/280) HAS REVIEWED THE SITUATION IN REGARD TO THE REPLACEMENT OF MEDIUM SAM SYSTEMS, AND AS A RESULT HAS RECOMMENDED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TWO PROJECT GROUPS. ONE PROJECT GROUP TO STUDY A REPLACEMENT FOR NIKE AND HAWK BASED ON THE US PATRIOT SYSTEM; A SECOND PROJECT GROUP TO STUDY A REPLACEMENT FOR HAWK BASED ON AN ANGLO/FRENCH PROPOSAL, HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS EUROSAM. FURTHER, THE TRI-SERVICE GROUP HAS RECOMMENDED THAT A REPORT BE MADE TO THE CNAD AT ITS SPRING 1978 MEETING.

7. NO QUANTITATIVE COMPARISON OF PATRIOT AND EUROSAM HAS
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YET BEEN MADE, AND THERE ARE INDEED DIFFERENCES IN THE TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS ADOPTED WHICH NEED TO BE EXAMINED IN THE CONTEXT OF DEFENCE OPERATIONS IN ACE. THE STATUS OF THE TWO PROJECTS IS VERY DIFFERENT. PATRIOT IS WELL DEFINED, IS ALREADY IN THE ENGINEERING PHASE, HOWEVER POSSIBILITIES FOR COLLABORATION ARE ALMOST CERTAINLY LIMITED TO THE PRODUCTION PHASE. EUROSAM IS IN THE PREFEASIBILITY PHASE, COULD THEREFORE BE MODIFIED WITHOUT UNDUE DIFFICULTY, AND OFFERS CONSIDERABLE POSSIBILITIES FOR COLLABORATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION, ALTHOUGH, ON PRACTICAL GROUNDS, IT IS EVIDENT THAT ONLY TWO OR MORE EUROPEAN NATIONS ARE LIKELY TO BE ABLE TO COMMIT THE NECESSARY RESOURCES TO UNDERTAKE THE REQUIRED RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION FOR SUCH A SYSTEM. THE OPPORTUNITY NOW EXISTS THEREFORE FOR LAUNCHING A SIGNIFICANT MULTINATIONAL SAM PROGRAMME WHICH WOULD HELP CONTINUE THE STANDARDISATION ALREADY ENJOYED IN THIS FIELD.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 5 USNATO 1626

SECDEF FOR ODDR&E, OASD(ISA);
SHAPE FOR BG SCHWEITZER;
HQ DA FOR DAMA-PPI;
DARCOM FOR DRCIRD;
REDSTONE FOR PROJ MGR FOR PATRIOT AND PROJ MGR FOR HAWK

8. BEFORE ANY NATION COMMITS ITSELF TO PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCUREMENT OF A FUTURE SAM SYSTEM, INFORMATION IS PROBABLY REQUIRED ABOUT WHAT SORT OF SYSTEM THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES BELIEVE NECESSARY, ABOUT THE ENVISAGED DEPLOYMENT, ABOUT THE NUMBERS REQUIRED, AND ABOUT THE INTEGRATION OF THE SYSTEM INTO THE EXISTING AIR DEFENCE COMPLEX; A NATO AIR DEFENCE PLAN IN FACT. ONLY WHEN SUCH INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE IS IT POSSIBLE TO JUDGE THE ALLIANCE-WIDE SUITABILITY OF A PROPOSED WEAPON, AND THE TOTAL COST OF PARTICIPATION. ALTHOUGH A NUMBER OF STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE ABOUT THE REQUIREMENTS FROM A FUTURE MEDIUM SAM THEY CONFIDENTIAL

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ARE, FOR THE POST PART, FAR TOO GENERAL TO BE OF ANY REAL VALUE IN DETERMINING PARTICIPATION TO A SPECIFIC PROGRAMME.

9. CLEARLY THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES ARE MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT ANY DECISIONS ON THE REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING SAM SYSTEMS. THE PRESENT UNCERTAINTIES IN REGARD TO THE FUTURE OF MEDIUM SAM PROVIDES AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF THE TYPE OF PROBLEM WHICH HAS PROMPTED THE MILITARY COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE AIR DEFENCE PLANNING IN THE LONGER TERM. THERE IS, HOWEVER, A NEED FOR THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PRESENT DECISION MAKING PROCESS BY DEVELOPING A CONCEPT FOR THE OPERATION AND INTEGRATION OF FUTURE MEDIUM SAM WITHIN THE FUTURE AIR DEFENCE COMPLEX, TO A DEGREE WHERE BROAD SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS CAN BE IDENTIFIED. IN TURN, ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS COULD BE IDENTIFIED WHICH WOULD LEAD IN EACH CASE TO AN ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER OF SYSTEMS REQUIRED TOGETHER WITH AN ESTIMATE OF PROCUREMENT AND OPERATING COSTS. THIS MIGHT BE A SUITABLE TASK FOR A WORKING GROUP COMPRISING MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL STAFFS, INCLUDING SHAPE AND STC, TO UNDERTAKE IN PARALLEL WITH ANY PROJECT GROUP ACTIVITIES.

10. IN VIEW OF THE PROJECTED COST OF BOTH PATRIOT AND EUROSAM IT WOULD SEEM PRUDENT TO EXAMINE WHAT POSSIBILITIES EXIST FOR EXTENDING THE LIFE OF EXISTING SYSTEMS. SINCE THE HAWK SYSTEM IS CURRENTLY IN AN IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME WHICH WILL

EXTEND ITS USEFUL LIFE TO AT LEAST THE EARLY NINETIES, AND
SINCE THE NUMBER OF BLOODHOUND AND THUNDERBIRD EQUIPMENTS IS
SMALL, SUCH POSSIBILITIES ARE PRESENTLY ONLY OF RELEVANCE TO
THE NIKE SYSTEM. THE UNITED STATES HAS INDICATED THAT IT
IS WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY FORUM ESTABLISHED TO INVESTI-
GATE IMPROVEMENTS IN BOTH THE MAINTENANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS
OF NIKE, ALTHOUGH THE COST OF STUDYING AND IMPLEMENTING SUCH
IMPROVEMENTS WOULD HAVE TO BE BORNE BY THE ULTIMATE USER.
IT WOULD THEREFORE SEEM APPROPRIATE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL
STAFFS TO UNDERTAKE A SECOND TASK AND, IN CONCERT WITH THE
UNITED STATES, TO EXAMINE OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVING AND EX-
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TENDING THE LIFE OF THE NIKE SYSTEM, AND TO REPORT TO THE
CONFERENCE BY SPRING 1978.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

(A) THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH C-M(66)33(2ND REVISE), THE
CONFERENCE AGREES TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TWO PROJECT GROUPS,
UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE TRI-SERVICE GROUP ON AIR DEFENCE,
TO EXAMINE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR:

(I) UTILISATION OF THE US PATRIOT IN NATO AIR DEFENCE
AS A REPLACEMENT FOR NIKE AND IMPROVED HAWK;

(II) COLLABORATIVE DEVELOPMENT OF A LONG TERM REPLACEMENT
FOR IMPROVED HAWK BASED ON THE ANGLO/FRENCH PROPOSAL.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 4 OF 5 USNATO 1626

SECDEF FOR ODDR&E, OASD(ISA);
SHAPE FOR BG SCHWEITZER;

HQ DA FOR DAMA-PPI;
DARCOM FOR DRCIRD;
REDSTONE FOR PROJ MGR FOR PATRIOT AND PROJ MGR FOR HAWK

THE CONFERENCE BELIEVES THAT THE MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT GROUPS ARE TO PREPARE A COMMON LEVEL OF INFORMATION ON THE TECHNICAL POSSIBILITIES, ON THE CONSEQUENCES IN RESPECT OF OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE, POSSIBLE IN-SERVICE DUTIES, PROCUREMENT AND OPERATING COSTS, INTEROPERABILITY AND INTEGRATION ASPECTS, AND TO PROVIDE INPUTS TO THE EQUIPMENT CONCEPT FORMULATION ACTIVITIES ON FUTURE SAMS. THE TSGAD IS INVITED TO INITIATE THE APPROPRIATE ACTION, AND TO REPORT THE TERMS OF REFERENCE, TASKS AND TIMETABLES TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE.

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(B) THAT THE CONFERENCE AGREES WITH THE NEED FOR AN AIR DEFENCE AUTHORITY, COMPRISED OF SENIOR NATIONAL AND NATO MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES, RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OVERALL DIRECTION OF AIR DEFENCE PLANNING WITHIN THE ALLIANCE;

(C) THAT THE CONFERENCE INVITES THE CHAIRMAN TO DISCUSS WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE THE MEANS TO ESTABLISH AND STAFF, IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE, AN AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON EQUIPMENT CONCEPT FORMULATION FOR FUTURE SAMS UNDER THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL FOR DEFENCE SUPPORT AND WITH THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AT ANNEX.

ENCLOSURE

DRAFT ANNEX TO DS/ASG(77)115

AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON EQUIPMENT CONCENT FORMULATION FOR FUTURE SAMS TERMS OF REFERENCE

BACKGROUND

A DECISION, WHICH WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE FUTURE AIR DEFENCE CAPABILITY OF THE ALLIANCE, MUST SOON BE TAKEN IN REGARD TO THAT SYSTEM OF SYSTEMS TO REPLACE THE BLOODHOUND, HAWK, NIKE AND THUNDERBIRD SURFACE-TO-AIR (SAM) SYSTEMS PRESENTLY DEPLOYED IN ALLIED COMMAND EUROPE (ACE). VARIOUS MILITARY, TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS WILL NEED TO BE EXAMINED AND THEIR INTER-RELATIONSHIP UNDERSTOOD IF A COHERENT DECISION IS TO BE MADE.

2. AS A RESULT OF THE REVIEW BY THE TRI-SERVICE GROUP ON AIR DEFENCE ON REPLACEMENT POSSIBILITIES FOR MEDIUM SAM SYSTEMS, TWO PROJECT GROUPS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED. ONE GROUP IS TO STUDY A REPLACEMENT FOR NIKE AND HAWK BASED ON THE UNITED STATES PATRIOT SYSTEM, A SECOND GROUP IS TO STUDY A REPLACEMENT FOR HAWK BASED ON AN ANGLO/FRENCH PROPOSAL (EUROSAM). TWO POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF SOME OR ALL OF THE EXISTING

SAM SYSTEMS WILL THEREFORE BE EXAMINED IN SOME DETAIL. IN
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PARALLEL WITH THE TWO PROJECT GROUPS THERE IS A NEED TO DEVELOP
AN OVERALL REPLACEMENT PLAN AND TO EXAMINE CRITICALLY THE
TIMING OF REPLACEMENTS IN THAT PLAN, AND TO DEVELOP A CONCEPT
FOR THE OPERATION AND INTEGRATION OF FUTURE SAME WITHIN THE
AIR DEFENCE COMPLEX.

TASK

3. THE WORKING GROUP WILL:

(A) DEVELOP AN OUTLINE OF THE AIR DEFENCE COMPLEX
APPROPRIATE TO ACE UNTIL THE YEAR 2000 IN SUFFICIENT
DETAIL TO ENABLE THE ROLE OF SAM TO BE IDENTIFIED;

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 5 OF 5 USNATO 1626

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SHAPE FOR BG SCHWEITZER;

HQ DA FOR DAMA-PPI;

DARCOM FOR DRCIRD;

REDSTONE FOR PROJ MGR FOR PATRIOT AND PROJ MGR FOR HAWK

(B) DEVELOP A CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS FOR SAM, TO
INCLUDE A DEFINITION OF THE MANNER IN WHICH IT
WILL BE INTEGRATED INTO THE AIR DEFENCE COMPLEX
SO THAT SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS CAN BE DEFINED IN
BROAD TERMS;

(C) IDENTIFY THE REPLACEMENT REQUIREMENTS IN REGARD
TO SAM, AND IDENTIFY ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF

PROVIDING A CONTINUOUS SAM CAPABILITY INCLUDING
POSSIBILITIES FOR EXTENDING THE IN-SERVICE LIFE
OF EXISTING SYSTEMS;
(D) DETERMINE, FOR EACH REPLACEMENT OPTION, THE
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NUMBER OF SYSTEMS REQUIRED, AND THE COST ASSOCIATED
WITH EACH ALTERNATIVE MEANS IDENTIFIED IN (C) ABOVE
INCLUDING PROCUREMENT AND OPERATING COSTS;
(E) PROVIDE AN OUTLINE, FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE
CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS AND THE
MILITARY COMMITTEE, WHEREBY AN ORDERLY TRANSITION CAN
BE EFFECTED FROM THE PRESENT TO A FUTURE SAM
STRUCTURE.

4. THE WORKING GROUP WILL PROVIDE AN INTERIM REPORT BY
30TH SEPTEMBER 1977, AND A FINAL REPORT BY 15TH MARCH 1978.

5. THE WORKING GROUP WILL BE ESTABLISHED UNDER THE
AUTHORITY OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL FOR DEFENCE
SUPPORT. IT WILL COMPRISE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL
STAFF (IS) AND THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY STAFF (IMS), WITH
SHAPE AND STC SUPPORT AS APPROPRIATE. A MEMBER OF THE IS
WILL BE APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP, AND A MEMBER OF THE
IMS WILL BE APPOINTED VICE-CHAIRMAN.

6. NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND EXPERTS, AND REPRESENTATIVES
OF OTHER NATO COMMITTEES WILL BE INVITED TO ATTEND AS
APPROPRIATE.

7. THE WORKING GROUP WILL MEET AS FREQUENTLY AS IS REQUIRED
TO MEET THE DUE REPORTING DATES. IF DEEMED NECESSARY, THE WORKING
GROUP MAY ESTABLISH WORKING PARTIES ON A LIMIED FULL-TIME BASIS
TO ADDRESS SPECIFIC ITEMS WITHIN THE OVERALL TASK. END TEXT.
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